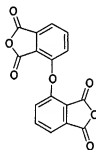


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

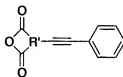
1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A thermoplastic imide oligomer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by polymerizing an acid component and a diamine component characterized in that at least 30 mol % of the acid component is an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (I);



( I )

or its derivative, and that the terminal of imide ~~oligomer~~ oligomer molecule is capped by two or more times of moles of the difference in mole number between the acid component used and the diamine component used, of a dicarboxylic acid anhydride having a triple bond in the molecule represented by formula (IV);



(IV)

in which R' is a trivalent organic group having 6 to 30 carbon atoms, which is a monocyclic aromatic group, a condensed polycyclic aromatic group or a non-condensed polycyclic

aromatic group where aromatic groups are linked each other directly or through a linking member, and any of aromatic ring in formula (IV) may be unsubstituted or substituted.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 9 wherein at least a part of the diamine component is a diamine represented by formula (II);

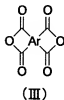


in which R is a substituted or unsubstituted bivalent organic group having an aromatic and/or aliphatic ring(s).

12. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 11 wherein R is a bivalent organic group having an aromatic ring(s).

13. (Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 12 wherein R has at least three aromatic rings.

14. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The thermoplastic imide oligomer according to claim 9 wherein the acid component further comprises an aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (III);



in which Ar is a quadrivalent organic group having an aromatic ring, or its derivative, which is different from the aromatic tetracarboxylic acid dianhydride represented by formula (I) and the derivative thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) A thermosetting imide oligomer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heat-treating the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.
16. (Previously Presented) A solution or suspension containing the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.
17. (Previously Presented) An amic acid oligomer, which is a precursor of the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.
18. (Previously Presented) A solution or suspension containing the amic acid oligomer as claimed in claim 17.
19. (Currently Amended) A thermosetting imide oligomer ~~obtainable~~ obtained by imidizing the amic acid oligomer as claimed in claim 17.
20. (Currently Amended) A polyimide ~~obtainable~~ obtained by heat-treating the imide oligomer as claimed in claim 9.